

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SG

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: DAKAR 4979

1. AFRICAN DIASPORA REGRETS ENLARGING SENEGALESE GROUP TO 32 MEMBERS CAN NOT BE FUNDED SINCE BUDGET ALREADY OVER-EXTENDED IN WASHINGTON AND ON TOUR, WITH INCREASE FROM ORIGINAL 27 TO GOS-REQUESTED 29 MEMBERS. FURTHERMORE, DETAILED PUBLICITY HAS ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED AND CHANGES AT THIS LATE DATE VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN.

2. AFRICAN DIASPORA, AMBASSADOR COULBARY, CULTURAL COUNSELOR BAYORO DIALLO AND FOLKLORIST JOHN FRANKLIN NOTE THAT TWO GRIOTTES AND MASTER KORA PLAYER HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED ON LATEST LIST OF PARTICIPANTS. URGENTLY REQUEST THAT SOUNDIOULOU CISSOKO, MAHAWA KOUATE AND FATOU THIAMB SAMB BE RE-SCHEDULED IF POSSIBLE, OR ASSURANCE BE PROVIDED THAT QUALITY OF OVER-ALL PRESENTATION WILL NOT BE IMPAIRED BY THE SUBSTITUTE PERFORMERS LISTED REFTTEL.

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3. FURTHER NOTE ADDITION OF MALE TAILOR, OUSMANE FAYE.

SUCH CRAFTSMAN WAS NOT A PART OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
AFRICAN DIASPORA OR JOHN FRANKLIN AND SENEGALESE OFFICIALS

AND COULD NOT BE PROGRAMMED ON TOUR. FURTHERMORE, HE
WOULD HAVE TO BRING OWN SEWING MACHINE, ADDING
UNJUSTIFIABLE EXPENSE TO EXCESS BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE.
AFRICAN DIASPORA PLACES HIGHER PRIORITY ON PARAGRAPH 2,
ABOVE.

4. SMITHSONIAN REGRETS MAURICE SENGHOR'S INABILITY TO
ACCOMPANY GROUP BUT BELIEVES THREE LEADERS PLUS DIASPORA
STAFF CAN PROVIDE ADEQUATE LEADERSHIP. HABIB

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